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Letter from Norman F. Coleman to John Muir, 1910 Jan 6 .

Norman F. Coleman

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Whitman College

Department of English

Norman F. Coleman
Ralph Morris
Harold G. Merriam

Walla Walla, Washington

Jan. 6, 1910.

Mr. John Muir,
Martinez, Cal.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your very kind letter. I regret that you could not accept our invitation for next spring. We do not want an experienced lecturer, a fluent talker upon regular topics; and I still have hope that you will visit us, at least to speak to our students. I myself feel, as you do, that our campaign for the conservation of wealth needs to be complemented by a campaign for the conservation of beauty. I feel too that our students and teachers, in their academic and professional isolation, need to be taught "lessons not found in books" (to quote Joaquin Miller) by some one who lives in a different way and knows different things, some one whose life is out-of-doors. We know of no one who can do this work better than you. You need not lecture at us, just talk with us. If I seem discourteously importunate, forgive me.

I have written to our Senator Jones, who I see is member of the Committee on Public Lands, and have urged him to help save Hetch-Hetchy. I thank you for calling my attention to this possibility of even slight public service.

Yours respectfully,

Norman F. Coleman

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